

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00187 051712Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, MBFR, UR
SUBJECT: GROMYKO AND THE MOSCOW CIRCUS TAKE ON THE NEUTRON BOMB

SUMMARY: SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB CONTINUES
TO STRESS THE "BARBARIC" NATURE OF THE WEAPON AS GROMYKO
USES VISIT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK TO DENOUNCE
THE NEUTRON BOMB. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VISIT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK TO
MOSCOW ON JANUARY 3-4 PROVIDED GROMYKO WITH AN OPPORTUNITY
TO STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB. SPEAKING AT
A LUNCHEON HONORING WOJTASZEK ON JANUARY 3 GROMYKO SAID
THAT IF "IMPERIALISM" GOES AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS TO PRODUCE
THIS "BARBARIC" WEAPON, THE USSR WOULD TAKE (UNNAMED)
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00187 051712Z

"RECIPROCAL MEASURES" TO PROTECT ITS SECURITY AND
REPEATED SOVIET PROPOSALS TO BAN MUTUALLY THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. GROMYKO CALLED ON PEOPLES OF EUROPEAN NATIONS TO OPPOSE THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.

2. A COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN PRAVDA ON JANUARY 3

BY BORIS DUBROVIN ATTEMPTED TO REBUT THE ARGUMENT THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS NEEDED TO REDRESS THE MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE. DUBROVIN CLAIMS THAT SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PROPOSALS AT THE MBFR TALKS ARE BASED ON THE EXISTENCE OF ROUGH PARITY BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT AND THAT MANY IN THE WEST RECOGNIZE THAT THE TWO SIDES POSSESS EQUAL MILITARY POTENTIAL. THUS, IN PRODUCING THE NEUTRON BOMB WESTERN MILITARISTS HOPE TO ACHIEVE "BY NOOK OR BY CROOK" THE ONESIDED ADVANTAGE WHICH THEY HAVE LONG UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT AT THE VIENNA TALKS.

3. THE THEME THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS A THREAT TO MBFR IS MOST FULLY DEVELOPED BY THE USA INSTITUTE'S MIKHAIL MILSHTEIN IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NOVOSTI PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 3. COMPARING THE NEUTRON BOMB WITH BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF DESTRUCTIVE POWER, MILSHTEIN STATES THAT ITS DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE WOULD PRESENT THE VIENNA TALKS WITH A "VIRTUALLY INSOLVABLE PROBLEM". MILSHTEIN ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB WOULD GREATLY LOWER THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD AND WOULD "RADICALLY UPSET" THE CURRENT BALANCE OF FORCES ON THE CONTINENT.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00187 051712Z

4. THE NEUTRON BOMB HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE WITH THE BEARS AND THE HIGHWAIRE ARTISTS AT THE "NEW CIRCUS" IN MOSCOW. FEATUING A FAT CAPITALIST FONDLING A NEUTRON BOMB, A NEW ACT CULMINATES IN THE CONSTERNATION OF THE CAPITALIST WHEN SCALES ARE BROUGHT OUT WHICH SHOW THAT A (CAGED) DOVE OUTWEIGHS HIS BELOVED BOMB. THIS VICTORY OF THE DOVE OVER THE BOMB WAS APPLAUDED BY THE AUDIENCE WHEN AN EMBOFF RECENTLY VIEWED THE PERFORMANCE. MATLOCK

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